

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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Imagery analysis report

Soviet SS-18 Mod-4-Associated Railcar (S)

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## SOVIET SS-18 MOD-4-ASSOCIATED RAILCAR (S)

1. (S/D) Railcars uniquely configured to transport empty SS-18 Mod-4-associated [ ] containers have been identified at the SS-18 complexes in the USSR (Figure 1). These railcars transport three empty Mod-4-associated shipping containers from deployed SS-18 complexes, probably to Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development and Production Center [ ] These containers are associated with a component of the SS-18 Mod-4 postboost vehicle (PBV), probably the propulsion/guidance control structure. Since these containers are not an operational component of the SS-18 missile system, they can be reused to transport new PBV-related components to the deployed SS-18 complexes and Tyuratam Missile/Space Test Center SSM [ ] A Mod-4-associated container and an SS-18 missile are delivered on a three-car canister/capsule train to an SS-18 rail-to-road transfer point. These Mod-4-associated railcars were used to transport groups of three empty Mod-4-associated containers from complexes as early as [ ] three months after initial SS-18 Mod-4 deployment.

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2. (TSR) The railcars appear to be standard [ ] flatbed-type railcars that have been modified to transport three empty Mod-4-associated containers (Figures 2 and 3). Each railcar has three circular cargo stations approximately [ ] in diameter and [ ] in height. Four retaining/anchoring brackets (each approximately [ ] high) are equally spaced around the perimeter of each cargo station. An SS-18 payload-associated transporter or a truck-mounted crane transloads Mod-4-associated containers from/to railcars.

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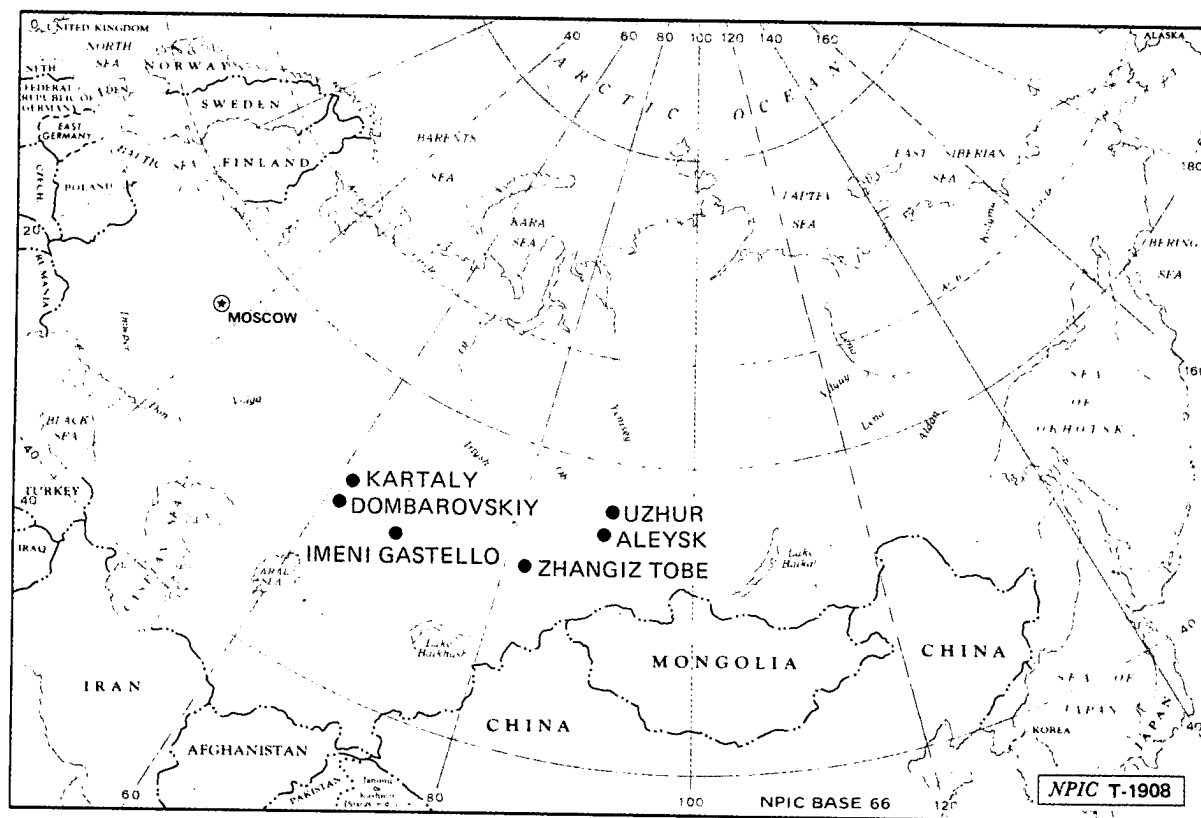


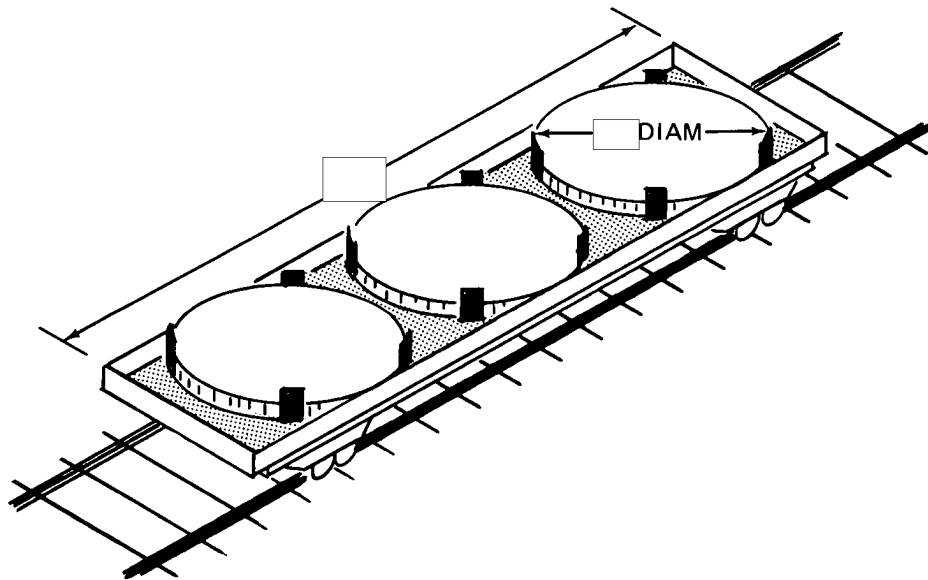
FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF THE SIX SS-18 COMPLEXES IN THE USSR

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DIMENSIONS IN METERS

NPIC T-1910

FIGURE 3. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF SS-18 MOD-4-ASSOCIATED RAILCAR

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [Redacted]  
Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [Redacted]

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